

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 11, 2003. Claims 1- 14, 16-20, 39-52, 54-78 and 110-112 are now pending. Claims 15, 21-38 and 53 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein. Claims 1, 17, 39, 41, 43-45, 55, 59, 61, 73 and 75 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 110-112 have been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 1, 39, 59 and 110 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The drawings were objected to for the reasons set forth on paragraph 1 of the Office Action. In particular, the Office Action stated that new corrected drawings were required because the loadlock in the drawing submitted on July 18, 2003 was not apparently formally drawn. Submitted herewith is a formal drawing (incorporating Figs. 1A to 1C) conforming to the requirement in the Office Action. Entry of the corrected drawing into the record is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-78 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,433,639 (Zahuta et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,004,181 (Robinson). Claims 1-78 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zahuta et al. in view of Robinson, in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,564,958 (Itoh et al.)¹

¹/ Applicants have carefully considered the remarks in the Office Action supporting the Section 103(a) rejections, but still strongly believe that the remaining claims are patentable for the relevant reasons set forth in the Remarks section of the Amendment filed July 18, 2003. Nonetheless, without conceding the propriety of either rejection, Applicants herein offer additional comments to (continued...)

Initially, without conceding to the propriety of these rejections, cancellation of Claims 15, 21-38 and 53 renders their rejections moot.

As amended, Claim 1 is directed to a method of manufacturing an image displaying apparatus, comprising the steps of a: preparing a first substrate on which phosphor exciting means is disposed and a second substrate on which phosphors emitting light by the phosphor exciting means is disposed under the vacuum atmosphere, b: carrying the second substrate or both the first and second substrates into a getter processing chamber in the vacuum atmosphere under the vacuum atmosphere, and subjecting to getter processing by flashing an evaporation type getter to a surface of the second substrate at which the phosphors are disposed, thereby forming a getter film on the surface of the second substrate on which the phosphors are disposed. The method also comprises a step of c: carrying the first and second substrates into a seal processing chamber in the vacuum atmosphere under the vacuum atmosphere, and heat sealing the substrates in an opposing state. Each processing chamber is evacuated into 10^4 Pa or more lower pressure. Accordingly, an inside of a vacuum container constituting the image displaying apparatus can be maintained at a highly evacuated state.

By virtue of these features, an inside of a vacuum container constituting the image displaying apparatus can be maintained at a highly evacuated state.

Support for amended Claim 1 is found, for example, at least, at page 30, lines 2-19 and page 31, lines 11-16 of the instant specification.

1/(...continued)

even further emphasize the patentable distinctions of the claims over the art relied on by the Examiner.

As described in the Amendment filed July 18, 2003, Zahuta et al. relates to a method for adjusting a “dewar assembly,” and Robinson refers to a method of manufacturing an image displaying apparatus. However, neither reference is seen to teach or suggest a method of manufacturing an image displaying apparatus having steps as recited in Claim 1, wherein, for example, the second substrate or both of first and second substrates are carried and conveyed into a plurality of processing chambers, within a vacuum atmosphere and subjected to getter processing by flashing an evaporation type getter to a surface of the second substrate at which the phosphors are disposed, thereby forming a getter film on the surface of the second substrate at which phosphors are disposed and wherein each processing chamber is evacuated into 10^{-4} Pa or more lower pressure.

Itoh et al. is cited in the Office Action as teaching in Fig. 1 and col. 4, line 64 to col. 5, line 5, that, for example, “[an] [i]ntroduction of the reducing gas and evacuation of the reducing gas . . . are repeated to 10 times or less, for example, 8 times . . . [and] a pressure in the display device 2 being reduced to a level as low as about 10.supp.-7 Torr, followed by sealing of the evacuation tube or a sealing lid, so that the display device 2 may be kept at a high vacuum” However, nothing in Ito et al. would teach or suggest a method of manufacturing an image display apparatus having the steps recited in Claim 1, wherein the second substrate or both of the first and second substrates are carried and conveyed into a plurality of processing chambers, within a vacuum atmosphere and subjected to getter processing by flashing an evaporation type getter to a surface of the second substrate at which the phosphors are disposed, thereby forming a getter film on the

surface of the second substrate at which phosphors are disposed and wherein each processing chamber is evacuated into 10^{-4} Pa or more lower pressure.

For the foregoing reasons, it is believed that Claim 1 is clearly patentably over Zahuta et al. and Robinson, and over Zahuta et al., Robinson, and Itoh et al., whether those references are considered separately or in those respective combinations.

Each of the remaining independent claims recites features that are similar in many relevant respects to those of Claim 1 above relating to a method of manufacturing an image displaying apparatus, wherein at least one of a first and a second substrate is carried and conveyed into a getter processing chamber. For substantially the same reasons as those given above in connection with Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that the above cited art, whether considered alone or their alleged respective combinations, is not seen to teach or suggest those features, and therefore those claims are believed clearly patentable over the art, whether considered separately or in those combinations.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

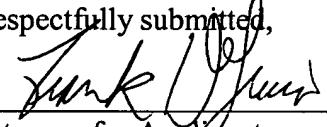
The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and its entry is therefore believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. In any event, however, entry of this Amendment, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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